



The Voice

**Nov.
2025**





The Voice is published monthly by
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

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 Fort Pierce, FL 34981
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Meetings

Parish Council
 3rd Tuesday
 6:30 PM
Philoptochos
 1st Saturday
 10:00 AM
Bible Study
 Every 2nd & 4th
 Wednesday
 10:30 AM
GOYA
 last Sunday
 12:00 noon
Adult
Dance Classes
 Ann Athans
Book Store
 Chayse Cloonan
F.I.S.H.E.R. Men
 Aaron Knapp
 Every 1st & 3rd Monday
 6:00 PM
Discover Orthodoxy
 Every 2nd & 4th Monday
 6:30 PM

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 dox Church Ft Pierce, FL

Note to Parishioners:

We invite all parishioners to submit items of interest for our monthly newsletter, *The Voice*.

This may include articles, stories that are relevant and important news in the lives of our parishioners.

Please submit material to the church office before the 15th of each month for review and inclusion in the next month's issue. Thank you.



Preparation for Holy Communion, The Nativity Fast, and Repentance

Receiving the Eucharist, Holy Communion, is the high point of our worship in the Divine Liturgy. As Orthodox Christians we do not take Holy Communion when unprepared, and we strive for frequent communion. The question then is, how do we prepare? For the answer we look at Jesus' teaching to His disciples when they asked Him why they could not cast out certain demons in His name. He told them that these could not be cast out except by *prayer* and *fasting*.

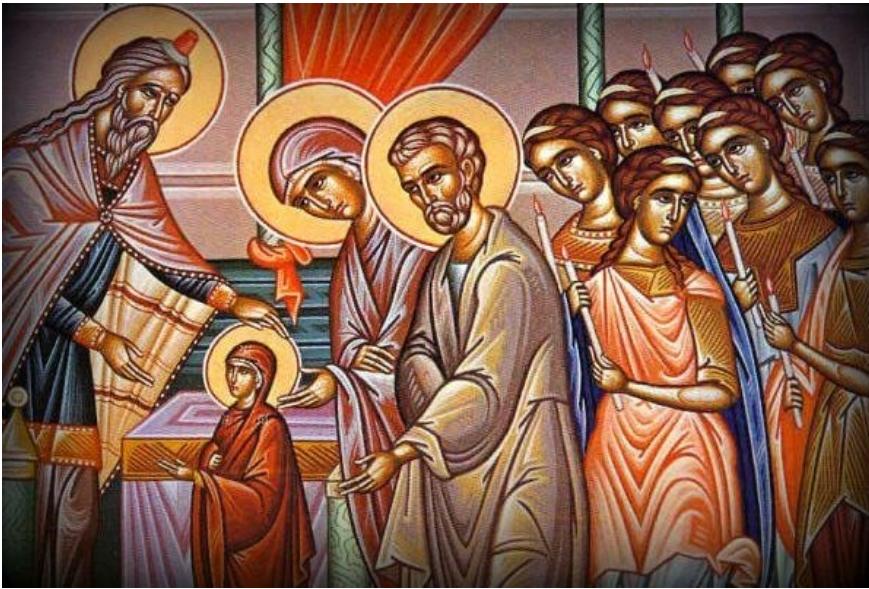
We pray as individuals, as families, and together as a Church family. We seek forgiveness from those whom we have offended; we pray for forgiveness of our sins and confess in the Sacrament of Holy Confession. The Sunday morning prayers of preparation are the last step of our preparation for Holy Communion through prayer.

We prepare by fasting also. November 15th we begin the forty-day Nativity Fast. This is similar to Great Lent because of its length and is also observed in addition to our fasting Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year. Fasting is part of our life as practicing Orthodox Christians and is not specific to receiving Holy Communion except for the fast on the day of receiving. Fasting is a spiritual discipline and is not meant to interfere with our health. Those taking medications *must* take them as prescribed.

The day we receive communion we do not eat, drink or smoke prior to receiving Holy Communion. We honor Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by receiving His body and blood first, then we break the fast – *breakfast*. When preparing for an evening Divine Liturgy we do not eat or drink after our noontime lunch until after we receive Holy Communion at the evening Divine Liturgy. I am always willing to help you in your fasting plan and in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. Parents must introduce their children to prayer and fasting as part of their life as Orthodox Christians from an early age.

Reading the Bible is also an important preparation. This month we may participate in the New Testament Challenge as we begin the Nativity Fast. This assists us with a discipline for reading the Bible.

Repentance of our sins is key to our preparation for Holy Communion. Those who do not acknowledge their sins deceive only themselves. The best preparation is an examination of the Ten Commandments and reflection on our life. Thoughtful scrutiny of the commandments shows us all to be sinners. Only Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is perfect in His humanity and divinity. Receiving Holy Communion without repentance of our sins is to receive condemnation, not salvation. Our sin is in seeing ourselves as sinless and not in violation of the commandments, in teaching others to receive Holy Communion in a cavalier rather than a thoughtful manner. We may be so comfortable in our sins that we do not acknowledge them and therefore feel we have nothing to repent. "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."



Presentation of the Theotokos (November 21)

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by the torches, the young child followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them.

The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, "It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days."

Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen.

The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25

F.I.S.H.E.R. Men

In recent meetings of the Fishermen we have been studying the passions. This far we have looked at gluttony, lust and anger and will next cover slothfulness. Pray for us that we may be given the grace to overcome these poisons to the soul!

After a hot summer, our last meeting in October saw us return to the fire pit behind the schoolhouse. Usually we meet in the hall but from time to time it is good to enjoy fellowship around the fire pit. We had the honor of reverently disposing of icons that had been severely neglected and were in a serious state of decay. Sub-deacon Pamphilios donated a fair portion of oak logs for our fires and we heartily thank him!

Looking forward, we will be doing some clean-up of the clutter in our closets and storerooms, and clearing side buildings around the church. If you know of a project we can help with please let us know.

The Fishermen meet every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. We usually meet in the hall, but sometimes at the fire pit. The group is open to every man over 18 and we welcome inquirers and newcomers.

Aaron Knapp

The devil appeared to three monks and said to them: if I gave you power to change something from the past, what would you change?

The first of them, with great apostolic fervor, replied: "I would prevent you from making Adam and Eve fall into sin so that humanity could not turn away from God."

The second, a man full of mercy, said to him: "I would keep you far from God so that you condemn yourself eternally."

The third of them was the simplest and, instead of responding to the tempter, he got on his knees, made the sign of the cross and prayed saying: "Lord, free me from the temptation of what could be and was not"

The devil, giving a raucous cry and shuddering with pain, vanished.

The other two, surprised, said to him: "Brother, why have you responded like this?"

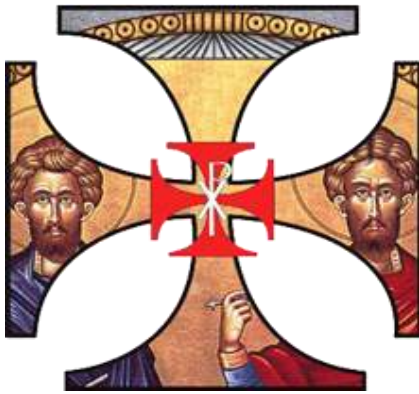
He replied: "First: we must never dialogue with the devil .

Second: Nobody in the world has the power to change the past.

Third: Satan's interest was not to prove our virtue, but to trap us in the past, so that we neglect the present, the only time God gives us His grace and we can cooperate with Him to fulfill His will."

Of all the demons, the one that catches the most men and prevents them from being happy is that of "What could have been and was not".

The past is left to the mercy of God and the future to his Providence. Only the present is in our hands. "Live in God, in the moment."



Philoptochos

Hello everyone.
News from the Philoptochos.

First, Thanks to everyone who helped with the rummage sale. Many thanks to everyone who donated items and those who baked cookies and other sweets for this event. It was a big undertaking.

This year we decided to separate the bake sale from the Greek pastries sale. It will take place in early December. More information will be forthcoming.

Our next monthly meeting will be Saturday, November 1st at 10:00 am in the church hall. We will be discussing the Greek pastry sale and other events that will follow. Please plan to attend.

A Christmas tree will be in the hall where you will select a child with a wish list of items to place in a large plastic bag, sponsored by the Salvation Army.

Please note: two orange trees for Thanksgiving donations are located in the hall and the church narthex. Simply take a turkey of the tree and place your donation in the box next to the tree. Every Thanksgiving the Philoptochos gives gift cards to help the ones in need.

We can do great things when everyone makes an effort to participate.

May all of you have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

In Christ,
Helen Penkosky



The Philoptochos
had their annual
Rummage and
Bake Sale in
October. Well
done ladies!!



Your Stewardship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Can you believe we are in the last quarter of 2025? And now two very busy months ahead that require lots of planning.

St Nicholas Church is also busy preparing the annual letters to Stewards with the record of gifts received to the end of September. Upon receipt, please check your records to assure accuracy.

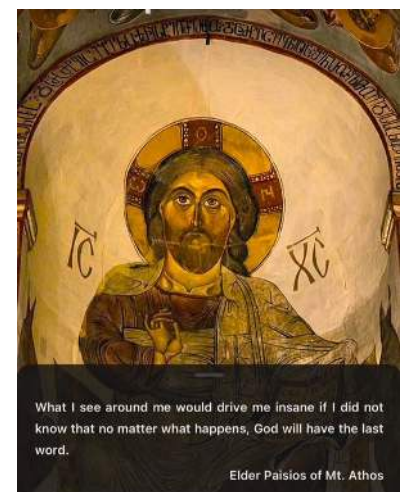
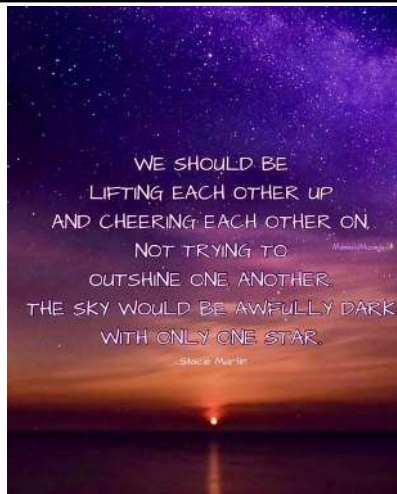
As Stewards, we profess that our lives are a gift from God. We are then called to cheerfully offer to Him a portion of the gifts we have been blessed with. Do you know payments now can be made at our online website (www.stnicholasfp.com) with many links available or there is the means to use a charge card in the Narthex.

During this busy season, please make the time to review your stewardship pledge and that you are up to date. As faithful Orthodox Christians, we are carrying on God's works in our parish and our community.

Best wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving with friends and family.

With love in Christ,
Sharon Colonis
Stewardship Chair

***"As each one has received a gift,
minister it to another,
as good stewards of the
manifold grace of God."
(1 Peter 4:10)***



Thankful...

For Baklava

A baklava baking class

WHEN: Sunday, Nov 9th

TIME: 3-5pm

COST: \$50

WHERE: St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
2525 S. 25th St. Fort Pierce, FL 34981



WINE, DINE, DESIGN

Enjoy a relaxing evening of wine-glass painting, charcuterie, and great company at St. Nicholas in Fort Pierce!

DATE

November 14th, 2025

6:00pm - 9:00pm

LOCATION

St Nicholas Greek

Orthodox Church

2525 S. 25th St.

Fort Pierce, FL 34981

COST

\$30/person

INCLUDES

- 2 glasses to paint
- Painting supplies
- Charcuterie style snacks
- Wine
- Door prizes

ADD FUN EXTRAS

- Wine charms
- Wine gift bags
- Cellophane gift bags w/ bows



Parishioner Happenings



The Youth Event on October 6th was well attended. While the little ones stood in line at the ice cream truck,



the big ones took over the bounce house.



A big thank you to our Grill Master, our face painter, and all those who worked to put this together for the kids.

OXI Day was celebrated with a wonderful luncheon, featuring heartfelt Greek poems and lively traditional dancing. A special thanks to the AHEPA for organizing the luncheon and generously donating all proceeds to the church's scholarship fund. We also extend our gratitude to the dancers, who looked fantastic and performed beautifully despite having only a few practices.



The 2025 Nativity Fast New Testament Challenge

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1	Sat. Nov. 15	Sabbath: Rest or get a head start
2	Sun. Nov. 16	Lord's Day: Rest or get a head start
3	Mon. Nov. 17	Matthew 1-7
4	Tue. Nov. 18	Matthew 8-12
5	Wed. Nov. 19	Matthew 13-18
6	Thu. Nov. 20	Matthew 19-24
7	Fri. Nov. 21	Matthew 25-28
8	Sat. Nov. 22	Sabbath: Rest up or Catch Up
9	Sun. Nov. 23	Lord's Day: Rest up or Catch Up
10	Mon. Nov. 24	Acts 1 – 4
11	Tue. Nov. 25	Acts 5 -15
12	Wed. Nov. 26	Acts 16 – 28
13	Thu. Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day: Rest Up or Catch Up
14	Fri. Nov. 28	Mark 1 – 11
15	Sat. Nov. 29	Sabbath: Rest up or Catch Up
16	Sun. Nov. 30	Lord's Day: Rest up or Catch Up
17	Mon. Dec. 1	Mark 12– 16
18	Tue. Dec. 2	James, 1 & 2 Peter
19	Wed. Dec. 3	Galatians, Ephesians
20	Thu. Dec. 4	1 st & 2 nd Thessalonians
21	Fri. Dec. 5	1 st & 2 nd Timothy, Titus, Philemon
22	Sat. Dec. 6	Sabbath: Rest up or Catch Up
23	Sun. Dec. 7	Lord's Day: Rest up or Catch Up
24	Mon. Dec. 8	1 st Corinthians 1 – 11
25	Tue. Dec. 9	1 st Corinthians 12 – 16, 2 nd Corinthians
26	Wed. Dec. 10	Romans 1-8
27	Thu. Dec. 11	Romans 9-16
28	Fri. Dec. 12	Luke 1-7
29	Sat. Dec. 13	Sabbath: Rest up or Catch Up
30	Sun. Dec. 14	Lord's Day: Rest up or Catch Up
31	Mon. Dec. 15	Luke 8-16
32	Tue. Dec. 16	Luke 17-20
33	Wed. Dec. 17	Philippians, Colossians
34	Thu. Dec. 18	1 st , 2 nd , & 3 rd John, Jude, Hebrews
35	Fri. Dec. 19	The Gospel of John 1-11
36	Sat. Dec. 20	Sabbath: Rest up or Catch Up
37	Sun. Dec. 21	Lord's Day: Rest up or Catch Up
38	Mon. Dec. 22	The Gospel of John 12-21
39	Tue. Dec. 23	Revelation 1 – 11
40	Wed. Dec. 24	Revelation 12 – 22

SAVE THE DATE

St. Nicholas Annual Dinner Dance

with live music in the church hall

Saturday, December 6, 2025



Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 3 PM – 5 PM

Make Your Own Baklava Dessert Class

Public · Event by Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox
Church

A Message from the President

Dear Parishioner,

One of the major fundraisers for our church is the Community Christmas Card, which is sent to all members of our parish. Please support this yearly project by completing the attached form and returning it to the church office by the deadline of

Monday, December 15th, 2025

The cost of printing your name on the card is \$25.00 per family.

Please make checks payable to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. You may place your form and donation in the trays on Sunday or send it to the church office at 2525 South 25th Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34981.

You can also pay directly on our web site at www.stnicholasfp.com use the drop down for online giving, click on Christmas card, and make your payment. If you need help call the office at 772-464-7194. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Love in Christ,

Kevin Cruz
Parish Council President

.....Cut Here.....
And return this portion with your donation.

Christmas Card Form

Print your name as it is to appear on the card:

Enclosed Payment:

Cash _____

Check _____

Poinsettias for Christmas

Our community is once again asking for donations to help purchase beautiful poinsettia plants and Christmas decorations which will adorn our sanctuary during the joyous Christmas Season. Please complete the form below and return it to the church by Sunday, December 14th, 2025. The cost per plant is \$15.00. Make your check payable to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

You can also pay directly on our web site at www.stnicholasfp.com Use the drop down for online giving, click on Christmas card, and make your payment. If you need help call the office at 772-464-7194. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

_____ Cut Here _____



Poinsettias and Decorations

Name _____

Address _____

Amount of Donation _____

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Services: 8:45 AM-Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy						1 10:00 AM-Philoptochos
2 5th Sunday of Luke Daylight Savings Time Ends	3 6:00 PM-FISHER Men	4	5	6	7 Dinner honoring Metro. Alexios in Atlanta	8 Archangel Michael Award honorees in Atlanta Congrats Lucy & Aaron Knapp
9 St. Nektarios 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Bakava Baking	10 6:30 PM-Discover Orthodoxy	11	12 10:30 AM-Bible Study 6:00 PM St. John Vespers, Hobe Sound	13	14 6 PM - 9 PM Wine Dine & Design	15 Nativity Fast Begins
16 Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist General Assembly GOYA Meeting	17 5:00 PM - Paraclesis 6:00 PM-FISHER Men	18 6:30 PM - Parish Council Meeting	19	20	21 Presentation of the Theotokos 9:00 AM-Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy	22 Wedding
23 9th Sunday of Luke 30 Andrew the 1st Called Apostle	24 6:30 PM-Discover Orthodoxy 6:30 PM - St. Catherine Vespers, WPB	25	26 10:30 AM-Bible Study	27 	28	29